

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05558 120934Z

11/51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-14 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 SAJ-01 DRC-01

/141 W

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O R 101325Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4853

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN 1193

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5558

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REF. A.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR CY

SUBJECT: GREECE DENIES REPORTS OF SOVIET OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE

REFS: A. ATHENS 5556 (EXDIS)

B. ATHENS 5548

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT WING
ATHENS PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE
IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS OFFERED ACTIVE SUPPORT
TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN ITS DISPUTE WITH TURKEY OVER
CYPRUS. THIS HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF SPECULATIVE REPORTS
THAT IN MEETINGS WITH MAVROS SOVIET AMB YEZHOF PROMISED
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO GREECE AND INTERVENTION OF
THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN FLEET IF TURKEY THREATENED TO
INVADE GREECE. THESE WILDLY INACCURATE REPORTS, COUPLED
WITH EQUALLY TENDENTIOUS CHARGES OF US SUPPORT FOR TURKEY,
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05558 120934Z

HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF INCREASING CONCERN TO CARAMANLIS

AS HE INDICATED TO ME LAST NIGHT (REF B), HIS CONCERN HAS DOUBTLESS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY FACT THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS APPEARED TO CONFIRM REPORTS BY ITS SILENCE.

2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LATE YESTERDAY ISSUED FOLLOWING DENIAL:

3. TEXT: NOTHING CONTAINED IN REPORTS ON THE SOVIET ATTITUDE IS CONSISTENT WITH REALITY. ON THE CONTRARY, IT MAY BE ASSERTED RELIABLY THAT ACTUAL STEPS TAKEN BY THE SOVIET UNION SO FAR TEND RATHER TO SERVE TURKISH POSITIONS ON THE PROBLEM. END TEXT.

4. THE RELEASE WAS CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN ALL PAPERS THIS MORNING, INCLUDING COMMUNIST AVGHI WHICH COMPLAINED THAT THE GOG ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SOVIET ATTITUDE "CAUSES QUESTIONS AND ANXIETIES AT A TIME WHEN GREECE "NEEDS ALLIES AND SUPPORTERS".

5. GREECE DOES INDEED MEET ALLIES AND SUPPORTERS AND GOG STATEMENT SHOWS A CLEAR-HEADED PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF CARAMANLIS ABOUT WHERE GREECE IS LIKELY TO FIND THEM AND WHERE ITS REAL INTERESTS LIE. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOG TO KNOW DOWN SPECULATION OF THIS KIND, WHICH IN SHORT-RANGE TACTICAL TERMS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEEMED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GREEK POSITION AT GENEVA, IS A FURTHER INDICATION THAT CARAMANLIS IS DETERMINED TO RESIST SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN GREECE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS05558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740220-0297
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740858/aaaabxmg.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. ATHENS 5556 (EXDIS)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREECE DENIES REPORTS OF SOVIET OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, UR, (CARAMANLIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005